

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Session #1

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the 2014-2018 Rainy River District School Board on December 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances.

Board Members Present Dianne McCormack, Michael Lewis, David Kircher, Don McBride
Raymond Roy, Ralph Hill (teleconference)

Regrets Earl Klyne

Student Trustee Jeff Marchuk

In Attendance Heather Campbell, Casey Slack, Al McManaman, Laura Mills,
Donna Chief, Travis Enge, Ann Cox, Stephen Danielson

RESOLUTIONS

- Res. #1 McBRIDE-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board appoint Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business and Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education, as scrutineers for the elections. CARRIED
- Res. #2 ROY-LEWIS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the agenda for December 2, 2014, Inaugural Board meeting, as amended. CARRIED
- Res. #3 ROY-LEWIS That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting November 4, 2014 (Session 40), having been typed and distributed, be approved. CARRIED
- Res. #4 LEWIS-ROY That the Rainy River District School Board approve the 2013-14 Financial Statements as presented. CARRIED
- Res. #5 LEWIS-ROY That the Rainy River District School Board approve the details of the Unappropriated, Internally Appropriated and Unavailable for Compliance components of Accumulated Surplus in the 2013-14 Financial Statements as presented. CARRIED
- Res. #6 ROY-LEWIS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the 2013-14 Statement of Trustee Expenses. CARRIED
- Res. #7 LEWIS-ROY That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies: CARRIED
5.76 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Students
3.52 Criminal Background Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening
- Res. #8 ROY-LEWIS That the Rainy River District School Board approve the following policies for stakeholder consultation: CARRIED
1.20 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee
2.70 Healthy School Food and Beverage
3.46 Performance Appraisal

- Res. #9 McBRIDE-KIRCHER That the Rainy River District School Board rescind the following policies: CARRIED
3.53 Service Providers
5.75 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students
- Res. #10 KIRCHER-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School board approve the transfer of \$1,378,791 from internally restricted accumulated surplus. CARRIED
- Res. #11 KIRCHER-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board approve an internally restricted reserve for the Donald Young School renovation for \$5,871,911. CARRIED
- Res. #12 ROY-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board receive the Personnel Report dated December, 2014. CARRIED
- Res. #13 ROY-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board grant authority as signing officers of the Board to Dianne McCormack, Chair, Heather Campbell, Director of Education and Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business effective December 2, 2014. CARRIED
- Res. #14 ROY-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board meet, in camera, in Committee of the Whole Board to consider the following:
- Confirmation of Committee of the Whole – In-Camera Minutes, Regular Board Meeting, November 4, 2014.
- Personnel
and that this meeting shall not be open to the public pursuant to Section 207(2) of the *Education Act*. CARRIED
- Res. #15 ROY-McBRIDE That the Rainy River District School Board rise and report to the regular meeting with the following recommendation therein:
That the Rainy River District School Board approve the Committee of the Whole In-Camera Session minutes, of the Regular Board Meeting, November 4, 2014. CARRIED
- Res. #16 McBRIDE-ROY That the Rainy River District School Board adjourn at 8:49 p.m. CARRIED

CALL TO ORDER

Director of Education, Heather Campbell, welcomed trustees, administration and the public to the Inaugural Board meeting. Heather Campbell stated that she would reside as Chair until after the election.

The Director stated that there was an error in the agenda, and that Item 2 – Approval of Agenda, could not occur until after the Trustees were sworn into office. It was recommended that order of business be changed and that the Approval of the Agenda follow the Election of Trustees.

SILENT REFLECTION

The Director of Education called for a moment of silent reflection.

DECLARATION AND OATH

The Declaration and Oath were administered to the Rainy River District School Board Trustees. It was noted that correspondence from the Municipal Clerks was included in the agenda package showing the final results regarding the election.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Board approved the appointment of Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business and Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education, as scrutineers. (resolution #1)

The Director called for nominations for the position of Chair. Dianne McCormack was nominated by Michael Lewis and accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Dianne McCormack was declared Chair of the Rainy River District School Board for the term December, 2014 to November, 2015. Trustee Dianne McCormack assumed the position of Chair for the Inaugural meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair Dianne McCormack called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Michael Lewis was nominated by David Kircher and accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Michael Lewis was declared Vice Chair of the Rainy River District School Board for the term December, 2014 to November, 2015 and assumed the position of Vice Chair for the Inaugural meeting.

OPSBA REPRESENTATIVE

The Chair called for nominations for the position of OPSBA Representative to the Board of Directors. Trustee Don McBride was nominated by Trustee Michael Lewis and accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Trustee McBride will hold the position of OPSBA Representative on the Board of Directors for the term December, 2014 to November, 2015.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Alternate for the OPSBA Representative to the Board of Directors. Trustee Dianne McCormack was nominated by Trustee Ralph Hill. There were no further nominations. Trustee McCormack will hold the position of Alternate for the OPSBA Representative on the Board of Directors for the term December, 2014 to November, 2015.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The order of the agenda was changed, with Approval of the Agenda following the Elections.

The agenda for the December 2, 2014 Inaugural Board meeting was approved, as amended.
(resolution #2)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There was no conflict of interest declared.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Supporting a Connected School – J.W. Walker School

Kevin Knutsen, Principal of J.W. Walker School, introduced Rhian MacIvor, Acting Vice Principal at J.W. Walker School, and Jeff Ogden, a Grade 8 teacher from J.W. Walker School who spoke about the support to promote student voice and strength-based learning.

Shae McCormick, Katelynn Bruyere, Alina Eldridge, Brianna Eldridge and Mathew Barron, students from J.W. Walker School, spoke about some of the practices and activities that have been implemented at the school to engage students of all ages, and to bring them together as a school community. *(Refer to report p.8 of the agenda.)*

Chair McCormack thanked the students for sharing their experiences, and commended them for working together to promote a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. Chair McCormack presented a certificate of excellence to the students and staff of J.W. Walker School.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the regular Board meeting November 4, 2014 (Session 40).
(resolution #3)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

SYSTEM – PROGRAM/CURRICULUM SUCCESS

Applied Behavioural Analysis Supports

Kelly Forbes, Principal of School Support Services and Special Education Administrator, spoke about the Applied Behavioural Analysis supports available and the funding provided by the Ministry of Education through Grants for Special Needs. Jennifer Cooper, Behavioral Therapist

spoke about the services that are available and how the behavior referral system works. The presentation also included information about future direction and strategies for students based on their individual needs and to ensure effective communication with stakeholders. (*Refer to report p.20-21 of the agenda.*)

Chair McCormack thanked Kelly Forbes and Jennifer Cooper for their presentation.

BOARD REPORTS

Special Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held November 12, 2014. (*Refer to minutes p.23-26 of the agenda.*)

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee meeting held November 17, 2014. (*Refer to minutes p.28-30.*)

Audit Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held November 19, 2014. (*Refer to report p.32-35.*) Trustee Kircher stated that the Board will be publishing the expenses of Trustees on the website. Board Administration were acknowledged for their work in preparing the 2013-14 Statement of Trustee Expenses.

Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business, provided a report to Board members on the August 31, 2014 Financial Statements. It was noted that the Board ended the August 31, 2014 year in a positive position. The Executive Summary reviewed by Board members provided a detailed description of the Board's financial assets and liabilities.

The Board approved the 2013-14 Financial Statements as presented. (resolution #4)

The Board approved the details of the Unappropriated, Internally Appropriated and Unavailable for Compliance components of Accumulated Surplus in the 2013-14 Financial Statements as presented. (resolution #5)

The Board approved the 2013-14 Statement of Trustee Expenses. (resolution #6)

Policy Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held November 25, 2014. (*Refer to minutes p.37-50 of the agenda.*)

The Board approved the following policies: (resolution #7)

5.76 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Students

3.52 Criminal Background Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening

The Board approved the following policies for stakeholder consultation: (resolution #8)

- 1.20 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee
- 2.70 Healthy School Food and Beverage
- 3.46 Performance Appraisal

The Board rescinded the following policies: (resolution #9)

- 3.53 Service Providers
- 5.75 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students

Finance Committee

Board members received the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held November 25, 2014. (*Refer to minutes p.52-54.*)

The Board approved the transfer of \$1,378,791 from internally restricted accumulated surplus. (resolution #10)

The Board approved an internally restricted reserve for the Donald Young School renovation for \$5,871,911. (resolution #11)

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Hill spoke about the Trustee Orientation which will be offered to all school board trustees at the OPSBA Public Education Pre-Symposium in January. The Ministry will subsidize travel for Trustees to attend the orientation session. The OPSBA Public Education Symposium will be held January 29-31, 2014.

Updates on legislative developments:

- For the 2014-15 Grants for Student Needs, OPSBA is seeking input from Member Boards and preparing a brief to be submitted to the Ministry of Education later this year;
- Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines – The Capital Advisory Committee (Board and Ministry representatives) has submitted their initial recommendations for review and the Ministry is expecting to more broadly consult on changes to the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines in the near future. This will impact the Accommodation Review process for Boards.

Student Trustee Report

Board members received a report from Student Trustee, Jeff Marchuk, on secondary school activities for November:

Fort Frances High School:

- November was busy with Freshie Week, which included Selfie Hunts. This gave new students an opportunity to become familiar with the school;
- Fly on the Wall pep rally took place. The event continued with Cam Penney being taped to the wall, and donations were accepted in support of Movember and Prostrate Cancer awareness.
- Held a drum competition.

- The Student Leadership Council is now planning a semi-formal and weeklong activities for Christmas. One of the activities is a “Cheer-In”, which is a buy-in for students to attend court sports. The proposed theme for the semi-formal is the Island of Misfit Toys, and students will be asked to donate old toys that will be given to the March of Dimes.

Atikokan High School:

- November was busy with court sports.
- Door decorating campaign has begun and the school is filling shoeboxes as part of Operation Christmas Child.
- Grade 12 students are attending a tour of Lakehead University today.
- The food class is fundraising for a trip.
- Planning began for a Christmas dance on December 16, and an assembly will occur on December 19. Candygrams are being sold as a fundraiser.

Rainy River High School:

- Candygrams are being sold as a fundraiser at the school in December.
- Students attended a Remembrance Day service at the Legion.
- An Owls’ World Record assembly was held during Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week.
- Rafikis Bracelets were sold.
- Planning began for a semi-formal, Mini We Day and We Bake for Change.
- An improv evening was held.

Chair Report

Chair McCormack welcomed new and returning trustees and provided comments on the role of a trustee.

Chair McCormack spoke about her commitment to fulfilling the responsibilities in the role of Board Chair for the 2014-2015 term.

Chair McCormack stated that over the past year, there has been and continues to be many negative stories in the media regarding the role of trustees and the functionality, or dysfunction of school boards. The Chair stated, “I believe we should be knowledgeable about and learn from negative experiences and examples but we must not allow ourselves to be discouraged or distracted by them. Despite the overwhelming presence of negative press, I firmly believe that school boards, comprised of publicly elected trustees, can and do make a positive difference for students.”

The Chair stated that Michael Barrett, President of the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association and Trustee for Durham District School Board, wrote a response to a call from a Toronto Star columnist to disband the role of trustee. In the response it is stated that “the role of trustee is a critical level of government”. He describes trustees as being “of the community” saying, “we live in our community, know our community, and advocate for our community”. He further stated that, “because of trustees there is local control that insures a centralized bureaucracy does not lose sight of the ability to have our education system reflect our varied and diverse community. Trustees serve as advocates, as ombudsmen, as originators of ideas, as guideposts and hold both governments and staff accountable.”

Chair McCormack stated, "Just as with being a parent or an educator I believe that one must experience firsthand, the role of trustee to truly appreciate the importance of what we do and the impact we have."

The Chair wished all students, staff, parents and community members an enjoyable holiday season.

Comments by Trustees

Vice Chair Lewis welcomed new Board members Raymond Roy and Don McBride.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Director's Update

Director Heather Campbell welcomed and congratulated Board members, and stated that she looked forward to working with them in support of student achievement and well-being.

Board members received a report on activities and events during the months of November.

Highlights for the month of November included:

- In addition to being part of the Public Council of Ontario Directors of Education Mentoring Program, the Director continues to work with the provincial Special Education Funding Working Group, the provincial working group on the Police/School Board Protocol, and has been recently appointed to the Teacher Education Discussion Table as the public director of education representative. Updates will be provided.
- On November 27th, the Director participated as the Public Council of Ontario Directors of Education representative at the Teacher Education Discussion (TED) Table in Toronto. The Ontario Teachers' Federation has convened the TED Table to provide a venue for key stakeholders to come together for an open and ongoing discussion about the progress of teacher preparation in Ontario.

One of the items of concern is the impact of the new two year program on technological education programs. Technological Education prepares teacher candidates to teach in a broad-based secondary technology area. Candidates enter the program with either an undergraduate degree to complete a Bachelor of Education (BEd) or with related post-secondary skilled work and/or wage-earning experience to complete a Diploma in Education (DEd).

With the movement to a two-year teacher education program, the Technological Education Program is similarly impacted. As the program is increased to four semesters of course work, including the minimum of 80 days of classroom teaching experience, the costs associated with tuition, travel and accommodation are similarly increased.

With the program undersubscribed now, faculties of education are concerned that the increased costs and timelines will result in fewer candidates and ultimately, the inability to offer such important programming. The Franco Boards are concerned that this could result in a shortage of French teachers.

The next meeting of the Teacher Education Discussion (TED) Table is scheduled for February.

- On November 10 to 12, the Rainy River District School Board hosted EGALE Canada Human Rights Trust, Canada's only national charity promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) human rights through research, education and community engagement. The Director attended one of the three sessions provided for staff as well as community partners. A parents' session was held the evening of November 12 with approximately 15 people in attendance.
- The facility partnership at Atikokan High School was celebrated on November 19. Confederation College and Contact North hosted local community partners in the Atikokan High School Resource Centre, providing an overview of the partnership and tours for guests.

The Director provided copies to Trustees of the resource titled, *Good Governance: A Guide for Trustees, School Boards, Directors of Education and Communities*.

The Director provided Trustees with a draft copy of the 2013-14 Director's Annual Report, and stated that the final version would be posted on the website and shared with Trustees.

Personnel Report

The Board received the Personnel Report as presented for November, 2014. (resolution #12)
The Personnel Report included the following:

Appointment

Amanda Armstrong, 1.0 FTE DECE, SCS, effective November 6, 2014
Alexis Saltmarsh, 0.5 FTE Education Assistant, RMS, effective October 31, 2014
Lynette Smith, 1.0 FTE Caretaker, NSC, effective November 3, 2014

Change in Assignment

Stephanie Black, 1.0 FTE, Education Assistant, JWS, effective November 3, 2014
Laura Mutz, 1.0 FTE, Communication Assistant, CRS, effective January 5, 2015

Leave of Absence

Jodie Brown, Maternity Leave, October 25, 2014 to October 24, 2015
Jodie Brown, General Leave of Absence, October 25, 2014 to October 30, 2015
Shelly Jones, General Leave of Absence, February 2, 2015 to February 27, 2015
Amanda Little, Maternity Leave ending December 16, 2014 revised
Amanda Little, General Leave of Absence cancelled, December 17, 2014 to February 1, 2015
Michael McInerney, Leave of Absence, effective October 29, 2014

Resignation

Natasha Shack, 1.0 FTE Teacher, FHS, effective January 29, 2015

Signing Authority

The Board granted authority as signing officers of the Board to Dianne McCormack, Chair, Heather Campbell, Director of Education and Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business effective December 2, 2014. (resolution #13)

CORRESPONDENCE

Board members received a letter sent by the Board Chair to the Honorable Colin Campbell regarding Student Transportation Competitive Procurement Expert Panel, and a response from Justice Colin Campbell acknowledging the letter.

There was no further discussion.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Next Regular Board Meeting – Regular Board Meeting, January 6, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances

Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee – December 4, 2014, 9:00 a.m., Education Centre

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee – December 8, 2014, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Parent Involvement Committee – December 9, 2014, 6:30 p.m., Education Centre

Special Education Advisory Committee – December 10, 2014, 12:00 p.m., Education Centre

Policy Committee – December 16, 2014, 9:30 a.m., Education Centre

Finance Committee – December 16, 2014, 1:30 p.m., Education Centre

WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES / CONVENTIONS

2014-15 Calendar of Events – Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Public Education Symposium, January 29-31, 2015, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

Labour Relations Symposium, March 26-28, 2015, Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

Annual General Meeting, June 11-13, 2015, Westin Trillium House, Blue Mountain, Collingwood

Trustee Orientation – January 20, 2015, 5:00 p.m., Education Centre, Fort Frances

IN CAMERA SESSION

The Board met In Camera, in Committee of the Whole Board, to consider confirmation of Committee of the Whole minutes, for the Regular Board meeting held November 4, 2014, and to discuss a Personnel matter. (resolution #14)

RISE AND REPORT

The Board did rise and report to the Regular Board meeting to approve the Committee of the Whole In Camera Session minutes of the Regular Board meeting November 4, 2014. (resolution #15)

The Board met in camera to discuss a Personnel matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 8:49 p.m. (resolution #16)

Director/Secretary

Chair